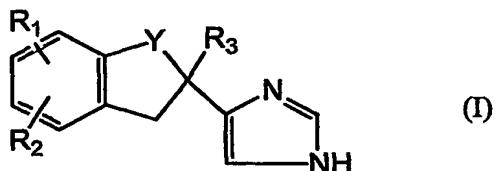


- 16 -

CLAIMS

1. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form containing, as an active ingredient, a substituted imidazole derivative of general formula (I):



wherein Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{CO}-$, R₁ is H, halo or hydroxy, R₂ is H or halo, and R₃ is H or lower alkyl (e.g. C₁ to C₄ alkyl, preferably C₁ or C₂ alkyl), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, such as an acid addition salt, e.g. the hydrochloride, of a compound of the general formula (I), so as to promote pre-gastric absorption of the active ingredient.

2. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in claim 1, which is formulated to disintegrate within 10 seconds of being placed in the oral cavity.

3. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which comprises a network of the active ingredient and a water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier which is inert towards the active ingredient, the network having been obtained by subliming solvent from a composition in the solid state, said composition comprising the active ingredient and a solution of the carrier in a solvent.

4. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, containing one or more matrix forming agents.

5. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in claim 4, wherein the matrix forming agents comprise one or more of gelatin and a sugar.

6. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in claim 5, wherein the matrix forming agents comprise gelatin and at least one sugar.
7. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein the gelatin is fish gelatin.
8. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 7, wherein the sugar is mannitol.
9. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 7 wherein the sugar is a cyclic sugar.
10. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 9, wherein the matrix forming agent(s) includes an amino acid.
11. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in claim 10 wherein the amino acid is glycine.
12. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$.
13. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein R_1 is halo or hydroxy.
14. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein R_1 is halo.
15. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein R_1 is 5-halo.
16. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein R_1 is fluoro.

- 18 -

17. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein R_2 is hydrogen.
18. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein R_3 is ethyl.
19. A fast-dispersing, solid dosage form substantially as hereinbefore described.